

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07
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R 051540Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0432
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, UR, AU
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER TERMS STATE TREATY MISSILE BANN
"OBSOLETE"

REF: A) VIENNA 9317 NOTAL
B) VIENNA 9508 NOTAL C) VIENNA 8584
NOTAL

1. VIENNA PAPERS JANUARY 5 QUOTE DEFENSE MINISTER LUTGENDORF
AS SAYING IN INTERVIEW IN WEST GERMAN "DIE WELT" JANUARY 4
THAT AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY ARTICLE 13 BAN ON MISSILES IS
"OBSOLETE" AS IT PERTAINS TO AUSTRIAN ACQUISITION OF DEFENSE
MISSILES. LUTGENDORF IS ALSO QUOTED AS CALLING FOR PURCHASE
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OF INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT AND INCREASE IN DEFENSE BUDGET.

2. WE HAVE NOT SEEN TEXT OF INTERVIEW; HOWEVERN "DIE PRESSE"
QUOTES LUTGENDORF AS FOLLOWS: "...I AM OF THE OPINION THAT,
SINCE AUSTRIA IS A NEUTRAL COUNTRY WILL ALWAYS PURSUE ITS
DEFENSE POLICY AS A DEFENSE POLICY, WE MUST NOT BE
DENIED THE RIGHT TO POSSESS ARMS SYSTEMS WHICH, THOUGH

OPERATED AS MISSILES, ARE ONLY DEFENSEIVE IN NATURE Owing
TO THEIR RANGE." PAPERS ALSO INDICATED LUTGENDORF
EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT, IDEALLY, AUSTRIAN DEFENSE SHOULD
RECEIVE SEVEN PERCENT OF BUDGET OUTLAYS (VS. PRESENT 3.8
PERCENT). "ARBEITER ZEITUNG" IN ADDITION QUOTES HIM AS
HAVING SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH AUSTRIA WOULD NEVER BE ABLE
TO SPEAK OF GENUINE AIR DEFENSE, "WE HAVE TO HAVE A
SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF INTERCEPTORS. I CONSIDER IT
ABSOLUTELY INDESPENSIBLE FOR US TO MAINTAIN A KIND OF
NEUTRALITY POLICY."

3. COMMUNIST "VOLKSTIMME" TERMED LUTGENDORF'S STATEMENTS
"ATTACK AGAINST STATE TREATY*" IN FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE AND
COMMENTED EDITORIALLY THAT LUTGENDORF "WANTS TO BRUSH
ASIDE PROVISIONS BANNING MISSILES, WHICH IS TANTAMOUNT TO
SHOOTING HOLES IN THE STATE TREATY AND THUS INTO ONE OF
THE PILLARS ON WHICH THE SECOND REPUBLIC RESTS."

4. COMMENT. IN VIEW OF SOVIET EMBASSY REACTION TO SIMILAR
STATEMENTS BY LESSER AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS IN PAST (REF B), WE
ANTICIPATE THAT, AT LEAST, SOVIETS WILL SEEK MFA CLARIFICATION OF
AUSTRIAN POSITION ON ARTICLE 13 IN LIGHT OF DEFENSE MINISTER'S
STATEMENT.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOA IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE DECISION
IN PRINCIPLE ON JANUARY 18 WHETHER AUSTRIA SHOULD ACQUIRE
INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT. LUTGENDORF'S INTERVIEW IN WEST
GERMAN PAPER CAN THEREFOER BE READ AS EFFORT TO GENRATE
TIMELY PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON DEFENSE ISSUES AND THEREBY TO
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INFLUENCE JANUARY 18 DECISION. THREE POINTS RAISED BY
LUTGENDORF-INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT, MISSILES, AND MONEY-
ARE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SAME COMPLEX ISSUE OF DUPDATING
INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 13.

6. WE HAVE REVIEWED OUT MOST RECENT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
ON ARTICLE 13 ISSUE (REF C) AND CONSIDER THEM STILL
APPLICABLE. END COMMENT.BUCHANAN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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